

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 EUR-12 /090 W

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R 201445Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4901

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1189

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB SF

SUBJ: MORE BLACK TEXTILE WORKERS FIRED - INVESTIGATION INTO
UNEMPLOYMENT DEMANDED

REF: A) JOHANNESBURG 1165 (B) JOHANNESBURG 446

1. SENATOR ANNA SCHEEPERS, UNITED PARTY MP AND PRESIDENT OF GARMENT WORKERS UNION (WHITE, COLOURED AND ASIAN) ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY (JULY 19) A FURTHER 200 BLACK GARMENT WORKERS IN JOHANNESBURG AREA HAD BEEN FIRED AS RESULT OF ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ACT BY GOVERNMENT. THE SENATOR WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THIS BROUGHT TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY TO SOME 4,000 PERSONS IN THE TRANSVAAL AND THAT "IT IS A CRYING SHAME THAT PEOPLE HAD TO BE PUT OUT OF WORK AT THIS TIME OF GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE SAKE OF IMPLEMENTING A RACIST IDEOLOGY." (COMMENT: OUR SOURCES INDICATE UNEMPLOYMENT AT ABOUT 2,000, NOT RPT NOT 4,000, BUT LIKELY TO GROW IF GOVERNMENT ACTIONS CONTINUE).

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT ACTION FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY ON HEELS OF CALL BY SEVERAL TRADE UNIONS AND SENATOR SCHEEPERS FOR FULL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION INTO OVERALL BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT IN
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SOUTH AFRICA FOLLOWING PUBLICATION IN FINANCIAL MAIL OF ARTICLE

ESTIMATING BLACK UNEMPLOYEMNT WILL SOON BE ABOUT TWO MILLION
(REFTEL A). IN THIS CONNECTION, SCHEEPERS QUOTED AS STATING
"IN TENSE RACIAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH NOW EXISTS, WE CANNOT AFFORD
LARGE SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT. IDLE HANDS COMBINED WITH FRUSTRATIONS
OF REPRESSIVE RACE LAWS, POOR HOUSING AND HUNGER CONSTITUTE AN
EXPLOSIVE MIXTURE."
JOHNSON

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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